

Press Release

PMLT[®] to facilitate Communication between Hearing and Deaf Persons

Weiterstadt (Germany), 25th March 2008: The company itSofD (IT Solutions for Deaf) wants to significantly improve communication between the deaf and the hearing, with a system which is called the Personal Mobile Language Translator (PMLT[®]). A central translation unit with easy-to-use mobile devices shall form the key elements to allow a face to face communication anytime and anywhere. Since the present communication solutions available in this field require a broadband connection at the deaf's side, they are only suitable for stationary use.

IT Solutions for Deaf (itSofD) has been founded by Norbert Baron specifically for the purposes of promoting and realizing his so far privately initiated PMLT[®] project. Now that the conceptual design and planning phases have been completed, Baron is looking for development partners and sponsors to implement and fund the project. His son being born deaf, Baron knows the problems firsthand.

To enable the deaf and the hearing persons to communicate with each other, the sign language must be translated into spoken language and back again. With the PMLT[®] concept, the translation will be done by a central relay service like it has been used with the stationary telephony for the last few years.

The way the PMLT[®] concept works is quite simple: The hearing person has a headset with a small integrated camera, while the deaf person uses a mobile phone, video glasses with a small display, or a small portable display. To begin with, a text (SMS) message is sent to establish the contact with the translation relay service. With the help of the camera, the signed language used by the deaf is then transmitted via UMTS video streaming to the relay service for being translated by a sign language interpreter into the spoken language of the hearing. The latter receives the translation via audio (text) streaming right through to the headset used. The same principle works just the other way round: The spoken language used by the hearing is translated by the relay service into the sign language, and transmitted right through to the video glasses where the deaf

person can read it from the small display.

One of PMLT's major components is already available within the joint project "TeSS" of the German Telekom and the German association for the self-help of hearing impaired persons, and this is the central relay service. Since PMLT® will only need an integration of existing and proven technologies the whole concept could be put into practice rather quickly when having adequate support from political and economic institutions, so Baron. For the first time and with an own privately financed booth he was present at the 2008 CeBIT Trade Fair to make the public aware of the problem and search for private and corporate sponsors.

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